

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Arata TOMITA

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be assigned

Filed: May 10, 2001

For: PNEUMATIC TIRE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**The specification is changed as follows:**

**Page 1, before the first paragraph, please add the following:**

11 This is a Divisional of Application No. 09/042,642 filed March 17, 1998, the disclosure  
12 of which is incorporated herein by reference.

**Page 1, please delete the second paragraph and replace it as follows:**

Generally, in pneumatic tires provided with block patterns, irregular wear known as heel-and-toe wear, results in steps due to wear at the leading (step-in) edges and the trailing (kick-out) edges of blocks, and tends to occur. Such wear is accompanied by a deterioration in external appearance and noise, and there is a definite need to solve this drawback.